

# CALIFORNIA'S REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

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## **Testimony to the Little Hoover Commission on Governor Schwarzenegger's Reorganization Plan 1: Reforming California's Board and Commissions**

*by*

*Celia McAdam, AICP, Chair*

*California's Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) Group*

- California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are honored to be asked to provide testimony to the Little Hoover Commission in regards to the Governor's reorganization proposal as it affects the transportation community. Our members are the countywide transportation agencies from every county of the state, and reflect the great diversity of transportation needs and interests statewide.
- We strongly applaud the efforts to streamline state government
- We are very pleased that the Governor has eliminated any proposal to reform or eliminate the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC has a very complex and important job in setting and implementing transportation policy in collaboration with the transportation community, and we are glad to see the Governor recognizes the need to preserve the Commission.
- The two specific parts of the Governor's proposal which I will address are;
  - Consolidation of the High Speed Rail Commission with the California Transportation Commission
  - Elimination of the Departmental Transportation Advisory Committee
- The Regional Transportation Planning Agencies support the proposal to consolidate the High Speed Rail Commission with the CTC as a policy and decision making body. It makes sense to have one body – the CTC – responsible for policy for all transportation modes to allow for comprehensive and balanced decision making.
  - However, statute gives the High Speed Rail Commission responsibility for operating this proposed rail system, for entering into design/build contracts, and for issuing bonds. These are powers that need to be preserved, but are not appropriate for the CTC. Additional work should be done to determine where the implementation function should reside.
- The Regional Transportation Planning Agencies support the elimination of the Departmental Transportation Advisory Committee. To our knowledge, this group has not met in years and the functions that appear in statute are handled very effectively through other coordination groups. Statute will need to be amended to eliminate references to this group.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and hope your recommendations will reflect the comments we've provided